GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5707
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2001
GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR
GANTA SRINIVASA RAO;PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY;RAMPAL SINGH

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gap between rich and poor persons Rural and Urban areas has increased in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to bridge the gap; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN TH MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) and (b): From the two latest estimates of consumer expenditure data obtained for the years 1993-94 (NSS 50th Round) and 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round), it is observedthat the ratio of per capita consumption of the poor to non-poor increased from 45% in 1993-94 to 47% in 1999-2000 (on the basis of 30-day recall) in rural areas. In urban areas, however, it decreased from 37% to 36% during the same period. This is due to the fact that a high proportion of urban poor are first generation migrants with little assets.

(c) and (d): The gap between the poor and non-poor is attempted to be reduced by proportionately higher increase in the per capita income/consumption of the poor, to be effected through acceleration of economic growth and direct income generation of the poor through employment and income generating programmes and assets- building.